

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

This application is responsive to the applicants' amendment filed on Oct. 5, 2009.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William G. Kratz, Jr. (Reg. No. 22,631) on December 2, 2009. During telephone conversation with Mr. Kratz, an agreement was reached to amend claims 9 and 11.

1. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 9: page 3, line 2, "**of said orbiting scroll**" has been inserted after --said plate back surface--.

- Claim 11 (Currently Amended) :

-- A scroll compressor in which a scroll fixed lap rising from a fixed plate of a fixed scroll and a scroll orbiting lap rising from an orbiting plate of an orbiting scroll are combined with each other to form compression chambers therebetween, a plate back surface of said orbiting scroll is provided with a back pressure space, said back pressure space is divided into an inner region and an outer region by a seal ring, high pressure is applied to said inner region of said seal ring, pressure which is lower than that applied to said inner region is applied to said outer region, thereby bringing said orbiting scroll into contact with said fixed scroll, a rotation resistant parts restrains said orbiting scroll from rotating, said orbiting scroll is allowed to orbit, thereby moving said compression

Art Unit: 3748

chamber toward a center of scroll while reducing volume of said compression chamber, refrigerant gas is sucked into said compression chamber and compressed, wherein:

said seal ring is located in said back pressure space,

said fixed scroll is made of iron-based material, said orbiting scroll is made of aluminum-based material, only said plate back surface of said orbiting scroll is subjected to surface processing to form a hardened layer, and

a said hardened layer formed by the surface processing of ~~said~~ a sliding portion between said plate back surface of said orbiting scroll and said seal ring only, is removed by working, so as to provide reduced friction between the seal ring and the plate back surface. --

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 9-12 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 9 and 11: As pointed out by applicants' amendment (see amendment to the claims section pages 3-4) and applicants' argument (see remarks section pages 5-7), the cited references fail to disclose or render obvious the claimed combination including only said plate back surface of said orbiting scroll is subjected to surface processing to form a hardened layer, and a sliding portion between said plate back surface and said seal ring is masked and subjected to the surface processing, so as to provide reduced friction between the seal ring and the plate back surface of the orbiting scroll, thereby forming said hardened layer on a portion of said plate back surface, but not forming said hardened layer on the sliding portion between said back plate surface and said seal ring.

Art Unit: 3748

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Theresa Trieu whose telephone number is 571-272-4868. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am- 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion can be reached on 571-272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TT

/Theresa Trieu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3748